

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application with claims 2-7, 9-13, and 18-20 being retained. Regarding the merits, claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention. The Examiner stated that claims 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome this rejection. The Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's assistance in this matter.

Also, claims 1, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0300357. Moreover, claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0300357. Additionally, Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0300357 in view of the Marino patent (U.S. 5,897,074). Furthermore, claims 8 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0300357 in view of the Liebeck patent (U.S. No. 1,151,887). Also, claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0300357 in view of the Liebeck patent and further in view of the Rao patent (U.S. No. 5,439,521).

The § 112 Claim Rejections:

The Examiner stated that for clarity and definiteness claim 18, line 11 should be amended to replace the term "element" with the term "portion". In response, the Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion and has amended claim 18 accordingly. Also, by this Amendment, claims 2-7 and 9-13 now depend from claim 18.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 2-7, 9-13, and 18-20 are now allowable over the prior art of record.

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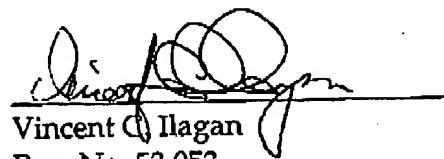
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Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant submits that claims 2-7, 9-13, and 18-20 are allowable. The Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500, if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: March 11, 2005